12

5   <u>Claims</u>

1. A jackpot wagering system, comprising:

a plurality of player terminals, each player terminal being operable by a respective player to place a corresponding wager on each one of a plurality of different turns of a game of chance;

an accumulation facility responsive to placement of each wager to accumulate a portion thereof in an accumulation account; and

a random event generator activatable by placement of each wager to generate a random event upon which an outcome of a turn of the game of chance is based, the outcome being one of a number of possible outcomes that includes a favourable outcome causing the player who placed that wager to win the contents of the accumulation account characterised in that the system includes:

enrolling means operable to enrol, during a determinable time interval, each player in a lottery as a function of that player's corresponding wagers on each one of the plurality of different turns of the game of chance and to cancel the lottery upon the occurrence of a favourable outcome of the game of chance during the determinable time interval; and

selection means activatable to select, if a favourable outcome of the game of chance does not occur during the determinable time interval, one of the enrolled players as a winner of the lottery as a function of a contingency determined at least by chance, the winner of the lottery being awarded the contents of the accumulation account.

2. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 1 in which the enrolling means is operable to enrol each player in the lottery once for every 10 different turns of the game of chance on which the player has placed a wager.

5   3. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 1 in which the enrolling means is operable to enrol each player in the lottery once for every 15 different turns of the game of chance on which the player has placed a wager.

10   4. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 1 in which the selection means selects the winner of the lottery at the expiry of the determinable time interval.

15   5. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 1 in which the determinable time period has a predetermined start time and expires a finite time after the predetermined start time or when the balance of the accumulation account exceeds a predetermined threshold.

20   6. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 1 in which each enrolment of a player in the lottery is uniquely identifiable by means of a corresponding unique code.

25   7. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 6 in which the selection means is a random number generator arranged to generate a random number corresponding one of the unique codes.

       8. A method for jackpot wagering, comprising the steps of:

       placing a corresponding wager on each one of a plurality of turns of a game of chance from any one of a plurality of player terminals, each
30   terminal being operated by a respective player;

       accumulating a portion of each wager in an accumulation account; and generating, in response to placement of each wager, a random event upon which an outcome of a turn of the game of chance is based, the outcome being one of a number of possible outcomes that includes a favourable
35   outcome causing the player who placed that wager to win the contents of

the accumulation account characterised in that the method includes the additional steps of:

enrolling, during a determinable time interval, each player in a lottery as a function of that player's corresponding wagers on each one of the plurality of different turns of the game of chance;

cancelling the lottery if a favourable outcome of the game of chance occurs during the determinable time interval;

selecting, if a favourable outcome of the game of chance does not occur during the determinable time interval, one of the enrolled players as a winner of the lottery as a function of a contingency determined at least by chance; and

awarding the contents of the accumulation account to the winner of the lottery.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8 that provides for enrolling each player in the lottery once for every 10 different turns of the game of chance on which the player has placed a wager.

10. A method as claimed in claim 8 that provides for enrolling each player in the lottery once for every 15 different turns of the game of chance on which the player has placed a wager.

11. A method as claimed in claim 8 in which the winner of the lottery is selected at the expiry of the determinable time interval.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11 in which the determinable time period has a predetermined start time and expires a finite time after the predetermined start time or when the balance of the accumulation account exceeds a predetermined threshold.

5   13. A method as claimed in 8 that includes the further step of uniquely
            identifying each enrolment of any player in the lottery by means of a
            unique code.

       14. A method as claimed in claim 13 in which the winner of the lottery is
10   selected by generating a random number corresponding to one of the
            unique codes.